

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims to be as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for remote mirroring of network traffic between a first network layer 2 domain and a second network layer 2 domain, the method comprising:
 - receiving by an entry device a data packet to be remotely mirrored ~~by an entry device~~ from the first network layer 2 domain, wherein the entry device is pre-configured with a destination Internet Protocol (IP) address to which to mirror the data packet, and the destination IP address is associated with a remote exit device in the second network layer 2 domain;
 - generating and adding an IP header to IP encapsulate the data packet, wherein the IP header includes the destination IP address; and
 - forwarding the IP-encapsulated packet to an exit device associated with the destination IP address.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining a media access control (MAC) address associated with the destination IP address;
 - generating and adding a MAC header to the IP-encapsulated packet to form a MAC data frame, wherein the MAC header includes the MAC address in a destination field; and
 - transmitting the MAC data frame to communicate the IP-encapsulated packet across ~~[[a]]~~ the second network layer 2 domain to the remote exit device.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the MAC address comprises:

determining if a mapping of the destination IP address to the MAC address is stored in an address resolution protocol (ARP) cache; if so, then retrieving the MAC address from the ARP cache; and if not, then broadcasting an ARP request with the destination IP address and receiving an ARP reply with the MAC address.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the IP-encapsulated packet is communicated across at least one intermediate layer 2 domain.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving the IP-encapsulated packet by the exit device; and
 - removing the IP header to de-encapsulate the packet.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote mirroring preserves an original format of the data packet.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets from at least one specified port of the entry device.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets which include a VLAN tag with at least one specified VLAN identifier.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets which include MAC addresses that matches at least one entry in a MAC look-up table.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets which include IP addresses that matches at least one entry in an IP hash table.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets which include an IP destination address that matches at least one specified subnet entry in a best matching prefix (BMP) table.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pre-configuring the entry device to mirror data packets matching at least one access control list (ACL) entry.
13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring the entry device in a best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring the entry device in a lossless mirroring mode to assure completeness of mirrored traffic.
15. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
truncating the data packet to reduce a size of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof.
16. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

compressing at least a portion of the data packet to reduce a size of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 encrypting at least a portion of the data packet to provide a level of security prior to forwarding the IP-encapsulated packet.
18. (currently amended) A networking device configured with a mirroring capability to a remote exit device in a different network layer 2 domain, the networking device comprising:
 a plurality of ports for receiving and transmitting packets therefrom;
 a switching/routing engine coupled to the ports for transferring the packets therebetween; and
 a remote mirroring engine configured to detect packets from a specified mirror source, IP-encapsulate the detected packets with an internet protocol (IP) header, and forward the IP-encapsulated packets towards an IP destination by way of at least one of the ports.
19. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the specified mirror source comprises at least one of said ports.
20. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the specified mirror source comprises at least one specified VLAN.
21. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the specified mirror source comprises those packets matching entries in a look-up table.

- 22. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the specified mirror source comprises at least one specified subnet.
- 23. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the specified mirror source comprises those packets matching entries in an access control list.
- 24. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the device includes a best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking.
- 25. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the device includes a lossless mirroring mode to assure completeness of mirrored traffic.
- 26. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the device truncates the data packet to result in a size reduction of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof.
- 27. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the device compresses at least a portion of the data packet to result in a size reduction of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof.
- 28. (original) The networking device of claim 18, wherein the device encrypts at least a portion of the data packet to provide a level of security prior to forwarding the IP-encapsulated packet.
- 29. (currently amended) An apparatus for remote mirroring of network traffic between a local network layer 2 domain and a remote network layer 2 domain, the ~~method~~ apparatus comprising:

~~means for receiving an entry device configured to receive from the local network layer 2 domain a data packet to be remotely mirrored to a remote exit device in the remote network layer 2 domain; by an entry device pre-configured with~~
a configuration file in the entry device, where the configuration file stores
 a destination Internet Protocol (IP) address to which to mirror the data packet;

[[means]] a remote mirroring engine for generating and adding an IP header to IP encapsulate the data packet, wherein the IP header includes the destination IP address[[:]], for reducing size of the data packet to accommodate the added IP header, and [[means]] for forwarding having the IP-encapsulated packet [[to an]] forwarded towards a remote exit device associated with the destination IP address.